

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strike through~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1, 10 and 19-21 and ADD new claims 22 and 23 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An electronic message delivery system comprising:

~~(a)~~ a terminal from which a user is able to browse electronic messages, electronically sent out on a communications network and addressed to the user; and

an electronic message delivery management server for managing delivery of the electronic messages, said electronic message delivery management server including:

(~~ba~~) a permitted-sender list in which permitted-sender information about a permitted sender, whose every electronic message is permitted to be received by the user on said terminal, is registered;

(~~eb~~) sender information obtaining means for obtaining sender information from an individual electronic message addressed to the user;

(~~ec~~) checking means for checking ~~as to~~ whether or not said sender information, ~~which has been~~ obtained by said sender information obtaining means, of the last-named individual electronic message is identical with said permitted-sender information registered in said permitted-sender list;

(~~ed~~) delivering means for delivering said last-named electronic message, which contains said last-named sender information registered in said permitted-sender list, to the user if the result of the checking by said checking means is positive;

(~~fe~~) a message holder for temporarily holding every electronic message from any sender so as to be browsed by the user from said terminal;

(~~gf~~) storing control means for storing the last-named electronic message into said message holder if the result of the checking by said checking means is negative;

(~~hg~~) browsing control means for allowing the individual electronic messages, which have been temporarily held in said message holder, to be browsed by the user

from said terminal upon a browsing request of the user from said terminal;

(ih) link setting means for setting a link between said sender information of an individual electronic message, which has been temporarily held in said message holder, and said permitted-sender list while the user is browsing the last-named individual electronic message from said terminal; and

(ji) registering means for registering said sender information of an electronic message in said permitted-sender list when the sender of the last-named electronic message is selected as a newly permitted sender by the user from said terminal-, and wherein said electronic message delivery management server distributes the electronic messages to said terminal, allows the individual electronic messages to be browsed by the user from said terminal upon the browsing request, sets the link between said sender information and said permitted-sender list, and registers said sender information in said permitted-sender list.

2. (ORIGINAL) An electronic message delivery system according to claim 1, further comprising notifying means for notifying the user that an electronic message has been held in said message holder, if said message holder holds the last-named electronic message therein.

3. (ORIGINAL) An electronic message delivery system according to claim 2, wherein said notifying means performs the notification of said last-named electronic message held in said message holder, at prescribed time intervals.

4. (ORIGINAL) An electronic message delivery system according to claim 1, wherein said electronic message is an e-mail.

5. (ORIGINAL) An electronic message delivery system according to claim 2, wherein said electronic message is an e-mail.

6. (ORIGINAL) An electronic message delivery system according to claim 3, wherein said electronic message is an e-mail.

7. (ORIGINAL) An electronic message delivery system according to claim 1, wherein said electronic message is a voice mail.

8. (ORIGINAL) An electronic message delivery system according to claim 2, wherein said electronic message is a voice mail.

9. (ORIGINAL) An electronic message delivery system according to claim 3, wherein said electronic message is a voice mail.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An electronic message delivery management server for managing ~~the delivering~~ delivery of electronic messages, electronically sent out on a communications network and addressed to a user, comprising:

(a) a permitted-sender list in which permitted-sender information about a permitted sender, whose every electronic message is permitted to be received by the user on a terminal communicably connected to said delivery management server through the communications network, is registered;

(b) sender information obtaining means for obtaining sender information from an individual electronic message addressed to the user;

(c) checking means for checking as to whether or not said sender information, which has been obtained by said sender information obtaining means, of the last-named individual electronic message is identical with said permitted-sender information registered in said permitted-sender list;

(d) delivering means for delivering said last-named electronic message, which contains said last-named sender information registered in said permitted-sender list, to the user if the result of the checking by said checking means is positive;

(e) a message holder for temporarily holding every electronic message from any sender so as to be browsed by the user from the terminal;

(f) storing control means for storing the last-named electronic message into said message holder if the result of the checking by said checking means is negative;

(g) browsing control means for allowing the individual electronic messages, which have been temporarily held in said message holder, to be browsed by the user from the terminal upon a browsing request of the user from the terminal;

(h) link setting means for setting a link between said sender information of an individual electronic message, which has been temporarily held in said message holder, and said permitted-sender list while the user is browsing the last-named individual electronic message from the terminal; and

(i) registering means for registering said sender information of an electronic message in said permitted-sender list when the sender of the last-named electronic message is selected as a newly permitted sender by the user from the terminal, and

wherein said electronic message delivery management server distributes the electronic messages to said terminal, allows the individual electronic messages to be browsed by the user from said terminal upon the browsing request, sets the link between said sender information and said permitted-sender list, and registers said sender information in said permitted-sender list.

11. (ORIGINAL) An electronic message delivery management server according to claim 10, further comprising notifying means for notifying the user that an electronic message has been held in said message holder, if said message holder holds the last-named electronic message therein.

12. (ORIGINAL) An electronic message delivery management server according to claim 11, wherein said notifying means performs the notification of said last-named electronic message held in said message holder, at predetermined time intervals.

13. (ORIGINAL) An electronic message delivery management server according to claim 10, wherein said electronic message is an e-mail.

14. (ORIGINAL) An electronic message delivery management server according to claim 11, wherein said electronic message is an e-mail.

15. (ORIGINAL) An electronic message delivery management server according to claim 12, wherein said electronic message is an e-mail.

16. (ORIGINAL) An electronic message delivery system according to claim 10, wherein said electronic message is a voice mail.

17. (ORIGINAL) An electronic message delivery system according to claim 11, wherein said electronic message is a voice mail.

18. (ORIGINAL) An electronic message delivery system according to claim 12,

wherein said electronic message is a voice mail.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable recording medium ~~in which~~ having an electronic message delivery management program stored therein to cause for a computer to function as an electronic message delivery management server to manage ~~the~~ delivering delivery of electronic messages, electronically sent out on a communications network and addressed to a user, is recorded, wherein said program instructs the computer ~~to function~~ as the following to execute operations, comprising:

~~(a) sender information obtaining means for~~ obtaining sender information from an individual electronic message addressed to the user;

~~(b) checking means for~~ checking as to whether ~~or not~~ said sender information, which has been obtained by said sender information obtaining means, of the last-named individual electronic message is identical with permitted-sender information registered in a permitted-sender list by the user from a terminal on the communications network, said permitted-sender information being information about a permitted sender, whose every electronic message is permitted to be received by the user on the terminal;

~~(c) delivering means for~~ delivering said last-named electronic message, which contains said last-named sender information registered in said permitted-sender list, to the user if the result of the checking by said checking means is positive;

~~(d) storing control means for~~ temporarily storing, into a message holder, every electronic message from any sender so as to be browsed by the user from the terminal if the result of the checking by said checking means is negative;

~~(e) browsing control means for~~ allowing the individual electronic messages, which have been temporarily held in said message holder, to be browsed by the user from the terminal upon a browsing request of the user from the terminal;

~~(f) link setting means for~~ setting a link between said sender information of an individual electronic message, which has been temporarily held in said message holder, and said permitted-sender list while the user is browsing the last-named individual electronic message from the terminal; and

~~(g) registering means for~~ registering said sender information of an electronic message in said permitted-sender list when the sender of the last-named electronic message is selected as a newly permitted sender by the user from the terminal;

wherein said program instructs the computer to distribute the electronic messages to

said terminal, allow the individual electronic messages to be browsed by the user from said terminal upon the browsing request, set the link between said sender information and said permitted-sender list, and register said sender information in said permitted-sender list.

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A~~The recording medium according to claim 19, wherein said program further instructs the computer to ~~function as notifying means for notifying~~notify the user that an electronic message has been held in said message holder, if said message holder holds the last-named electronic message therein.

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A~~The recording medium according to claim 20, wherein said program instructs the computer to ~~function as said notifying means in such a manner that said notifying means performs~~perform the notification of said last-named electronic message held in said message holder, at predetermined time intervals.

22. (NEW) A method of managing an electronic message, comprising:
categorizing the electronic message in accordance with stored sender information upon receipt of the electronic message by a server; and
automatically transmitting a notification related to the categorized electronic message to a terminal, and enabling a user of the terminal to link sender data of the categorized electronic mail to the stored sender information while browsing contents of the electronic message.

23. (NEW) An apparatus for managing an electronic message, comprising:
means for categorizing the electronic message in accordance with stored sender information upon receipt of the electronic message by a server;
means for automatically transmitting a notification related to the categorized electronic message to a terminal; and
means for enabling a user of the terminal to link sender data of the categorized electronic mail to the stored sender information while browsing contents of the electronic message.